

Lesson Plan:

Question tags

LEVEL	TIME	SKILLS	FOCUS
Intermediate (B1)	60–75 minutes	Grammar, speaking, listening	Positive and negative tags; rising and falling intonation; functions

OBJECTIVES

By the end of the lesson, students will be able to:

- Form question tags correctly for all tenses and subjects
- Understand the rule: positive clause → negative tag; negative clause → positive tag
- Use falling intonation for confirmations and rising intonation for genuine questions
- Produce and respond to question tags naturally in conversation

TARGET LANGUAGE (EXAMPLES)

Formation rules

- Positive statement → negative tag: It's cold today, isn't it?
- Negative statement → positive tag: She doesn't smoke, does she?
- Past simple: He went home early, didn't he?
- Future: You'll be there, won't you?

Irregular tags

- I am late, aren't I?
- Let's go, shall we?
- Don't be late, will you?
- There's a problem, isn't there?

Intonation

- Falling intonation → seeking confirmation (I'm pretty sure)
- Rising intonation → genuine question (I'm not sure)

LESSON PROCEDURE

1. Warm-up (5 min)

Task: Listen and respond: teacher says statements with tags, students reply with short answers.

- 'You live near here, don't you?' 'Yes, I do.' / 'No, I don't.'

2. Presentation (15 min)

Task: Core rule + irregular tags with examples.

- Demonstrate intonation difference with two contrasting examples.
- Drill: students form the tag for teacher's statements.

3. Guided practice (10 min)

Task: Add the correct tag to 8 statements.

- 'She can speak French, ___?' → can't she
- 'There wasn't any food left, ___?' → was there

4. Conversation task (20 min)

Task: Students use question tags to confirm information about a partner.

- 'You've been to France, haven't you?'
- Challenge: use at least 5 different tenses/auxiliaries.

5. Listening task (5 min)

Task: Listen to 5 sentences. Does the intonation go up or down?

- Students decide: confirmation or genuine question?

EXTENSION / HOMEWORK

Choose one:

1. Write a dialogue (10-12 lines) between two people catching up, using at least 6 question tags.
2. Write 8 sentences with question tags using 4 different tenses.
3. Record yourself saying 5 question tags — once with falling, once with rising intonation. Compare.